

Board of Education Meeting
February 12, 2024
6:30 PM, at Polk Central Elementary School Media Center

Members Present: Chairman Ashworth, Vice-Chairman Mr. Covil, Ms. Page, Ms. Allen, Mr. Parsons, Ms. Gibbs, Ms. Jackson

Members Absent: None

Others: Superintendent Aaron Greene, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Jan Crump, Human Resources Director Todd Murphy, Director of Operations Brandon Schweitzer, Finance Officer Debbie Lovelace and Attorney Phillip Feagan

Call to Order and Welcome

Mr. Ashworth called the meeting to order at approximately 6:30 PM and welcomed all in attendance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Student Presentation

Polk Central Elementary School Principal Kim McMinn introduced Ms. Cochran and the PCES Chorus, and they performed two songs for the Board. Next, several students presented information to the Board regarding Galileo and the solar system. Each student talked about a specific planet and shared a poster that they had created. The Board applauded the performance and shared their appreciation with the teacher and students for their hard work and performance.

Transportation Department Recognition

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board recognizing the Polk County Schools Transportation Department. He introduced Jackie Crump, Director of Transportation, to introduce his staff. Mr. Crump introduced the staff that was in attendance and shared some of their duties. He spoke about his appreciation for the dedication of his staff, and to those staff members not able to be in attendance. Mr. Greene provided an overview of the current state inspection results and the outstanding score that was earned by Polk County. He commented that the state inspector contacted him directly regarding how outstanding of a score the Polk County Transportation Department received.

Approval of January 8, 2024 Board Minutes (Action)

Chairman Ashworth called the Board's attention to a copy of the January 8, 2024 Board Minutes. Mr. Ashworth asked if there were any additions or corrections. Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the Board minutes with the correction. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. INSTRUCTIONAL

The Janice Anderson Brumley Educational Grant Recipient – Aaron Greene (Information)

Superintendent Greene presented the Janice Anderson Brumley Educational Grant Award to this year's recipient. This educational grant fund was established by the family of Janice Anderson Brumley. Ms. Brumley was a teacher in Polk County for years and strived to be the best educator she could. This grant fund will award up to \$1,000 each year to educators who share Ms. Brumley's goal and dedication. Mr. Greene presented Ms. Kendall Stoney, AIG Teacher, with The Janice Anderson Brumley Educational Grant Award. Ms. Stoney plans to use this grant to help get her AIG specialist degree through Western Carolina.

2023-2024 Fall Semester Update - Jan Crump (Information)

Ms. Jan Crump gave a report to the Board regarding mCLASS. She went over data comparing beginning of the year and middle of the year measures. She highlighted areas of growth and bragged on the educators charged with improving literacy in the lower grades. The District is pleased with the data and will update as things progress.

Summer Learning Program - Jan Crump (Action)

Ms. Jan Crump provided the Board information on the 2024 Summer Learning Program. Ms. Crump went over the attached document that was shared with the Board. The number of students in need of these intense services are decreasing, and participation numbers may reflect that this year. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Summer Learning Program as presented. Mr. Parsons made a motion to approved the Summer Learning program and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The Summer Learning Program was approved 7-0.

Summer Learning Testing Program – Adrian Hammond (Action)

Ms. Adrian Hammond spoke with the Board regarding the testing portion of the Summer Learning Program. The plan is to offer EOG testing for grades three through eight in math and reading. Mr. Parsons asked for clarification on what the student is tested on. Ms. Hammond stated that this gives the student two weeks for remediation and then the child would retest on the same standards. Hopefully, interventions have been successful and the student will improve. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve the Summer Learning Program. Ms. Gibbs made the motion to approve the plan as presented and it was seconded by Mr. Parsons. The Summer Learning Program was approved 7-0.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE

Budget Amendment - Debbie Lovelace (Action)

Debbie Lovelace reviewed the budget amendment included with the agenda. Chairman Ashworth asked for a motion that the budget amendment be approved as submitted. Ms. Jackson made the motion, which Mr. Parsons seconded. Chairman Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. The motion was approved 7-0.

Spring Budget Workshop - (Information) Aaron Greene

Superintendent Greene held discussion with the Board regarding the scheduling of the Spring Budget workshop. The Board agreed to have the Spring Budget Workshop on March 11 at 3:30.

PSBRRF Request - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Director of Operations Dr. Brandon Schweitzer spoke with the Board regarding the distribution request for Public School building Repair & Renovation Funds (PSBRRF). This request is for \$129,310.00 for the Polk Central Elementary School cafeteria roof. Dr. Schweitzer discussed the details of the request. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the request and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The PSBRRF was approved 7-0.

PSBCF Request - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Director of Operations Dr. Brandon Schweitzer spoke with the Board regarding the Application for Public School Building Capital Fund (PSBCF) Request. The request is for \$91,801.00 to pay for completed paving on the rear section of the Polk Central Elementary driveway. Dr. Schweitzer discussed the details of the request. Mr. Covil made a motion to approve the request and it was seconded by Ms. Gibbs. The PSBCF Request was approved 7-0.

Student Transfer Request - Brandon Schweitzer (Action)

Superintendent Greene spoke with the Board regarding a student transfer request that was shared with the Board. Administration recommends approval. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the transfer request and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The student transfer request was approved 7-0.

Preschool Playground Grant - Kathy Harding (Action)

Kathy Harding presented plans to the Board to apply for a Preschool Playground Grant. This is a request to the office of Head Start for one-time supplemental funding. This is funding to do things that are now supported by the current budget. Ms. Harding will be requesting \$460,348 for playgrounds at Polk Central Elementary, Saluda Elementary, and Sunny View Elementary. The District will also request a waiver to the 20% non-federal match. Chairman Ashworth called for a motion to approve submission of the one-time supplemental playground grant. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the grant as presented and it was seconded by Ms. Jackson. The Preschool Playground grant was approved 7-0. Ms. Gibbs expressed her appreciation to Ms. Harding for always pursuing funds to help the program.

Head Start Continuation Grant 2024-2025 - Kathy Harding (Action)

Chairman Ashworth recognized Kathy Harding, Preschool Director, for the Head Start Grant continuation application. Ms. Harding reviewed the documents attached to the Board Agenda including the Head Start proposed budget, the Self-Assessment Summary and Improvement Plan, the Training and Assistance Plan, and Program Goals Progress Update. The Head Start grant budget total will be \$734,972 which includes \$12,827 of restricted money for technical assistance and training of staff. Mr. Ashworth called for questions or comments and there were none. Ms. Gibbs made a motion to approve the Head Start Continuation Grant and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The Head Start Continuation Grant was approved on a vote of 7-0.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Facilities Update - Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Director of Operations, Brandon Schweitzer, updated the Board regarding the Tryon Elementary Preschool addition. Dr. Schweitzer stated that the project is still moving forward. The next phases of the project will likely proceed more slowly, requiring more coordination between areas and with less predictability. He shared with the Board time lines of playground, paving, and other finishing actions. There will need to be discussion regarding a move-in date. Dr. Schweitzer stated that he would come back in in March with more information regarding the possible move-in date.

Infinite Campus – Adrian Hammond (Information)

Ms. Adrian Hammond gave a brief presentation to the Board on Infinite Campus, the state’s new student information management system. Ms. Hammond stated that Polk County Schools has accepted the invitation to join Infinite Campus in phase one of their statewide implementation. The district team has completed the first phase of training. The next phase will be to meet and collaborate with the project manager from Infinite Campus. Ms. Hammond stated that they will be working with principals to assign infinite campus roles at their schools. The Board agreed the District may continue in the Infinite Campus pilot.

Superintendent Greene spoke to the Board and stated that the Administration is purposing not to make up the date that was missed due to rain and the Board agreed to move forward without making up the day.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Safe Schools Grant – Brandon Schweitzer (Information)

Dr. Brandon Schweitzer presented to the Board regarding the annual safe schools grant. He spoke in detail on how Polk’s application was submitted and that the district requested approximately \$500,000 to cover the cost of security upgrades. Dr. Schweitzer stated that the district has been awarded a safe schools grant of \$300,000. The Board offered their appreciation to Dr. Schweitzer for his hard work in this grant application.

Superintendent Greene stated that the Board needed to discuss the deed to the Forbes Preschool Building. He requested that Attorney Feagan give the information. Attorney Feagan explained the deed status and requirements of the deed. It is clear in the language that if the building ever stops being used as a preschool program, the property title would go back to the entity that has the executory interest. Now that Forbes will not be used for Preschool, the title will revert to the Forbes Foundation. The Board needs to approve and sign a non-warranty deed that says they hold no claim to the property. This will release any and all claims Polk County Schools has to the deed. Chairman Ashworth called for a

motion for this to be executed when the time comes. Mr. Parsons made the motion and it was seconded by Ms. Page. The motion to approve the execution of the non-warranty deed when the time comes was approved 7-0.

V. INFORMATION

January Head Start Policy Council Minutes
January Pre-School Monthly Report
Pre-K Financial Report
Monthly Financial Report
Month to Date Credit Card Report

OPTIONAL NCSBA OFFERED BOARD TRAINING

Spring Law Conference - Live Virtual Event - March 14, 2024 - March 15, 2024
NCSBA Legislative Short Session Preview Webinar - March 20, 2024 - Live Virtual Webinar
2024 Spring LEAD Training Sessions - TBD

VI. PUBLIC INPUT

None

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Closed Session

At 7:45 PM Mr. Ashworth entertained a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel and an attorney client matter. Ms. Jackson made the motion to go into closed session and it was seconded by Ms. Allen. The motion carried 7-0.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Resumption of Regular Session: With all discussion concluded in closed session, Mr. Ashworth called for a motion to return to open session. At 8:58 pm, Ms. Page made a motion to return to open session. Ms. Gibbs seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Mr. Ashworth called the Board's attention to those matters on the personnel agenda that required Board approval. Mr. Ashworth asked the Board's pleasure in regard to a motion. Ms. Allen made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Superintendent and the Human Resource Officer. Ms. Page seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

There was discussion among the Board regarding an Attorney Client matter.

Information:

Name	Position	School	
Jamie Graber	Teacher	PCMS	Parental Leave
April Crowder	Teacher Assistant	Sunny View	FMLA
Natalie Heatherly	Teacher	PCHS	FMLA
Kenneth Blackburn	Custodian/Bus Driver	Polk Central	Retiring

Action:

Name	Position	School	Hometown	College	Licensure Area	Years Exp
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David Scherping	Interim Principal	Tryon Elementary	Tryon	Western Carolina	Instructional Technology	Years
Heather Thompson	Payroll Clerk	Stearns	Rutherfordton	N/A	N/A	Years
Macy Dedmon	EC Teacher	Polk Central	Forest City	NC A&T	EC	9
Jessica Searcy	Transfer from TA /Bus Driver at Saluda to Admin Asst/Bus Driver at Bus Garage	Bus Garage	Mill Spring	N/A	N/A	Years
Taylor Shackley	Teachers Assistant	Saluda Elementary	Rutherfordton	ICC	N/A	8
Melissa Brown	Afterschool Data Manager	Stearns	Tryon	N/A	N/A	Years
Kathy St. Clair	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Tryon	University of TN	PE	Years
Kimberly Granville	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Landrum, SC	University of Phoenix	El Ed/AIG	Years
Jessica Jackson	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Columbus	N/A	N/A	Years
Hilary Carman	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Tryon	University of FL	N/A	N/A
Lucas Cash	Substitute Teacher	PCHS	Boiling Springs, SC	Grand Canyon University	N/A	Years
Gina Macaluso	Substitute Teacher	All Schools	Tryon	Florida Atlantic University	N/A	1

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no more business to come before the Board, Mr. Ashworth declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Mr. Ashworth, Board Chair

Aaron Greene, Board Secretary
 AG/TO